

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An image pickup device comprising

an image pickup element;

a variable power lens arranged on the same optical axis as said image pickup element and changing image pickup magnification;

a magnification converting lens arranged so as to be inserted and detached on said optical axis and converting the image pickup magnification into a predetermined multiple;

a signal processing circuit for outputting a signal from said image pickup element as a picture image signal;

an image recording section for recording an image; and

a control section for performing control for inserting and detaching said magnification converting lens on said optical axis;

wherein said signal processing circuit electronically enlarges~~outputs~~ the image recorded to said image recording section and outputs the electrically enlarged image during a transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis.

Claim 2 (Original): The image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein said image recording section records the picture image signal from said signal processing circuit as an image.

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The image pickup device according to claim 1[[3]], wherein, during the transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis, said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The image pickup device according to claim 1[[3]], comprising a variable power lens magnification sensor for detecting the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens, and wherein, during the transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis, said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section according to the ratio of a change of the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens detected by said variable power lens magnification sensor prior to said transition time period.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The image pickup device according to claim 1[[3]], wherein, during the transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis, said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges the image recorded to said image recording section according to a zoom operation.

Claim 7 (Original): The image pickup device according to claim 5, wherein said control section changes the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens when said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs said image.

Claim 8 (Original): The image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein said control section changes the image pickup magnification of said variable power lens when said signal processing circuit stepwise enlarges and outputs said image.

Claim 9 (Original): The image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein, when the image from said image recording section is switched to the picture image from said image pickup element, said signal processing circuit synthesizes and processes images from said image recording section and from said image pickup element, and said signal processing circuit outputs this synthesized and processed picture image to a monitor.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): An image pickup method comprising
a step for inserting and mounting a magnification converting lens for converting image pickup magnification into a predetermined multiple on the optical axis of an image pickup element and a variable power lens;

a step for recording a picture image signal from a signal processing circuit to an image recording section as an image; and

a step for switching a picture image from said image pickup element to the image recorded to said image recording section ~~and outputting the switched image;~~

wherein said switched image is electrically enlarged and the electrically enlarged image is outputted during a transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis.

Claim 11 (New): The image pickup device according to claim 9, wherein the synthesizing and processing performed by the signal processing circuit includes changing an overlap ratio of the images from said image recording section and from said image pickup element over a predetermined synthesizing period such that a ratio of the picture image from said image pickup element in the synthesized and processed picture image is gradually increased during the predetermined synthesizing period.

Claim 12 (New): The image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein, during the transition time period of said magnification converting lens being inserted onto said optical axis, said signal processing circuit enlarges and outputs the image recorded to said image recording section according to the ratio of said magnification converting lens.